

A

# DEDICATION

TO A

Great M A N,

Concerning

## DEDICATIONS.

Discovering,

Amongst other wonderful  
SECRETS, what will be the pre-  
sent Posture of Affairs a thousand  
Years hence.

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*Laus & Vituperium.*

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The Second Edition.

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L O N D O N:

Printed for James Roberts, in War-  
wick-Lane. 1718. Price 6 d.

A  
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Great Man

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A  
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TO A

Great MAN;

Concerning

Dedications, &c.

My LORD,



OUR Lordship and I are not at all acquainted, I therefore take Leave to be very familiar with you, and to desire you to be my Patron, because you do not know me nor I you: Nor can this Manner of Address seem strange to your Lordship, whilst it is warranted by such numerous Precedents.



dents. I have known an Author praise an Earl for twenty Pages together, tho' he knew nothing of him, but that he had Money to spare. He made him Wise, Just, and Religious for no Reason in the World, but in Hopes to find him *Charitable*, and gave him a most bountiful Heart, because he himself had a most empty Stomach. This Practice being general, it is a very easy Matter to guess, by the Size of the Panegyrick, how wealthy the Patron may be, or how hungry the Author; if it exceeds three Pages, you may pawn all the Blood in your Body upon it, the Writer has fasted three Days; and that his Lordship, among all his other good Parts, has at least ten thousand Pounds a Year.

From all this we may learn, that a great Man's Fortune is as easily known from a Dedication to him, as from the Rent-Roll of his Estate; and that his Bounty to the Author, is only Wages for publishing his Wealth to the World.

It is likewise evident, that no Lord of a low Fortune must expect an humble Admirer amongst us Wits and Writers, unless he bargain with us at a set Price, and give us so much a piece for every good Quality he has Occasion for.

We must not therefore judge of the *High and Mighty* as they are describ'd in the Frontispiece of Books and Poems. Your *Dedicators* are a Sort of *Intellectual Taylors*, that cut out Cloaths for a Great Man's Mind without ever taking Measure of it. They have indeed two Rules from which they never depart: First, The Dress must be *Gaudy*; and, Secondly, It must *never fit*. Their Business is to make it of a vast Dimension, and to cover it all over with *Tinsel*. If the Suit be Bulky and Shining, the Poet has the



the Reputation of a skilful *Tradesman*; for the *Stuff* and the *Exactness* are never consulted.

I would upon this Occasion congratulate the Quality upon the Advantage which it is to them, to have their Characters drawn by such as either do not, or dare not, know them; and consequently will be sure not to put their Graces, and Lordships, and Ladyships, out of Countenance — A convenient Piece of good Breeding! for which, I hope, they are thankful.

For my self, when I see a long Drift of Excellencies and Talents cramm'd down a Nobleman's Throat, who has no Relish of them, or Right to them, I am not at all surpriz'd, because I am sure it is not meant as an Encomium upon *his Honour*, but meerly as a Declaration of the Author's Wants, and a heavy Complaint of Nakedness and Hunger.

Some may reckon a Dependance on a great Man the best Reason and Foundation for *dedicating* to him; but I am not of their Opinion. For my Part, I have no Manner of Dependance on any *Star and Garter* in *Great Britain*, as any one may observe from the Chearfulness of my Looks, and the Integrity of my Life. I own, that setting up for a Writer, I judg'd it convenient to me and my Book, to call in your Lordship for an Assistant, but no farther than just to set off and honour my Title-Page. I at first indeed intended to let the whole Credit of the Thing remain with you, by entitling my Pamphlet, *An Essay of a Man of Quality*: But my Bookseller, who is a snoaky Fellow, and understands the Pulse of the People perfectly well, fell into a great Rage, and ask'd me for the five Shillings again, which he had advanc'd to me,

by

by Way of Encouragement, a Week before. He told me, he had neither Pleasure nor Profit in selling *waste Paper* to the Grocers at two Pence a Pound. Why, says he, the famous *Daffy* might as rationally have writ *Aqua Fortis* upon his Elixir: *The Essay of a Man of Quality*! If I were to chain the Book to my Counter, it wou'd not make it a more everlasting Shop-keeper than this very Title: It is as bad as a Spell; and the most adventurous Reader will not presume to open the Book that is fortify'd with it. — No, No; if you must have the Front of your Book embelish'd with something of *Title*, you may call it, *A Letter to a great Man*: Since you do not name him, People will naturally imagine there is something in it exceeding saucy and satyrical; and that very Thought will make your Pamphlet popular. — I have follow'd his Advice, and am t'other five Shillings the richer for it.

But, as I was telling your Lordship, Reliance on a great Man is not a good Reason for *dedicating* to him; for either he will receive the Present of your Praise as a just Tribute for such your Dependance; (and then where is your Pay, and the due Hire of your Sweat and Invention?) or else he will reward you with a Sort of Coin, call'd *Promises*, stamp'd with his Honour, but never current amongst Shop-keepers and Victuallers. Alas! Who will give you an Ell of Cloath, or a Cut of Beef upon it? It is a lamentable Thing, the World should be arriv'd to such a Pitch of ill Breeding, that now a Days a great Man's Word and Honour are as little minded by the rest of the World, as by himself.

And



And so I will proceed to assert, That the only proper Patron for an Author to inscribe his Works to, is one to whom he is an utter Stranger, who having had no Manner of Commerce with the aforesaid Author, can understand his Dedication to be nothing else but an elegant Demand for such a Sum of Ready Money. Dedications are therefore Bills of Exchange, drawn by the Witty upon the Great, and payable at Sight. But, lest the worthy Offering should not be understood, or recompens'd as it ought to be, thro' the deplorable Ignorance of the Quality, whose high Characters place them far above the Reach of Knowledge and the Impulses of Humanity, I have, for the Benefit of my worthy Companions in the Labours of the Standish, drawn up the following Form, with which I would have all Dedications to conclude.

*The Right Honourable Dives Earl of Widefield,  
Debtor to Paul Poorwit, for the following Goods  
sold and deliver'd.*

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>Imprimis</i> , For a large Stock of Learning, very much wanted, _____	02	10	00
<i>Item</i> , For a Barrel of rare Eloquence, admir'd by all the World, but never yet us'd, _____	05	00	00
<i>It.</i> For as much Justice and Honour as a Great Man has Occasion for, _____	00	01	1½
<i>It.</i> For a Hogshead of Courage that never saw the Sun, _____	10	00	00
<i>It.</i> For half a Pound of Wit and Humour, being all I had to spare, but very good in their Kind, and Dog-cheap, _____	01	00	00
<i>It.</i> For a long Line of Lineage, and great Quantities of ancient Blood, neither of them measur'd, but only guess'd at, _____	05	00	00



It. For Praising your Ancestors, un- } *known;*  
 It. For admiring your Lady's Beauty, } *unlight, unseen.*  
 It. For a Gracelul Person, all of my } *own making.*  
 It. For several Thimble-fulls of Ge- } *nerosity, a scarce Commodity!*

Sum Total 28 08 6

My Lord,

I Have sent you the above mention'd Goods,  
 being the best my Garret affords, and at  
 the lowest Price. I hope they will please you.  
 You will find in the Cargo several Things  
 which I have not Item'd, viz. A large Parcel  
 of Virtue, and another of good Nature; because  
 I knew you wanted them as much as any of  
 the rest. — These two Articles will raise  
 the Whole to at least, Even Thirty Pounds; and  
 I have drawn a Bill upon your Lordship accor-  
 dingly, which I beg your Lordship to pay at  
 Sight; for, I assure you, I have had pressing Oc-  
 casion for the Money long before it was due. I  
 might have found Chap-Men for these Goods  
 among very many of the Nobility and Gentry,  
 as unprovided with them as yourself; but out  
 of pure Respect to your Lordship, I resolv'd  
 you should have the Refusal. — In firm  
 Expectation of your approaching Bounty,

I am,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's most Oblig'd,

Most Devoted,

Most Obedient,

Most, &c.

by our Kings. And we have Instances of Appointments and Returns of Burgesſes made by Lords of Towns, in our Parliament Rolls, tho' theſe are very few : Amongſt the Parliament-Writs, *Anno 14 Q. Eliz.* there appears to be the following Return.

' To all People to whom this preſent Writing ſhall come : I Dame *Dorothy Packington*  
' Widow, late Wife of Sir *John Packington*  
' Knight, Lord and Owner of the Town of  
' *Aylesbury*, ſend Greeting. Know ye that I the  
' ſaid Dame *Dorothy Packington* have choſen, nominated, and appointed the truſty and well-beloved *Thomas Lichfield* and *George Burden* Eſqs;  
' to be my Burgeſſes of my ſaid Town of *Ayleſbury* ; and whatſoever the ſaid *Thomas* and  
' *George*, Burgeſſes, ſhall do in the Service of the Queen's Highneſs, in the Parliament to be holden at *Weſtminſter*, on, &c. next enſuing the Date hereof, I the ſame *Dorothy Packington* do ratify and approve as my own Act, as fully and effectually as if I were or might be preſent thereat. In witneſs, &c.'

In antient Times it was left to the Sheriff of each County to name and direct which were Boroughs, and which were not, by the general words in the Writ, *De qualibet Civitate duos Cives, & de quolibet Burgo duos Burgenſes eligi facias*, &c. to cauſe to be choſen two Citizens of every City; and two Burgeſſes of every Borough; and the Return of the Writ, thereon indorſed, was thus : ' I *A. B.* Sheriff, by virtue of this Writ, have cauſed to be choſen, in the County of, &c. two Knights, and of every City  
B of

‘ of the same County two Citizens, and of every Burgh of the said County two Burgeses, of the best, most able, and discreet Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses of the County, Cities and Burghs aforesaid, according to the Tenor of the Writ.’

*Anno 36 Edw. III.* the Sheriff of *Wiltshire*, in his Return of Burgeses for the Boroughs of his County, left out *Luggershall*, which had before sent Burgeses to Parliament; and there have been many other Omissions of poor inconsiderable Boroughs, for some hundreds of Years, grounded upon the like Returns; tho’ in every Return mention is made, that of every Borough two Burgeses have been chosen.

But in the 5th Year of *Richard II.* there was a Law made, that if any Sheriff of the Realm should be from thenceforth negligent in making his Returns of Writs of the Parliament, or should leave out of the said Returns any Cities or Boroughs which of old time were wont to send Burgeses to Parliament, he was to be punished for the same; yet notwithstanding this Law, the Practice of the Sheriffs remained the same it was before, till the Reign of King *Edw. IV.* tho’ since it has been altered.

As to who were or ought to be the Electors in Boroughs, it hath very much exercised the *British* House of Commons. In the 22d *Jam. I.* in a Contest between Sir *William Masters*, and Sir *Maurice Berkely*, upon an Election made at *Cirencester* in *Gloucestershire*, it was resolved, that no Consent of Parties, Competitors, can alter the legal



( II )

legal Course of Elections; that where there is no Charter or Custom to the contrary, the Election is to be made by all the *Householders*; that Sir *William Masters* was duly elected by the greater Number of Inhabitants and *Freeholders*; and that where there is neither Charter nor Custom nor free Burgesses in any Borough, there the Election was to be made by Householders, and not Freeholders only.

In a Question, whether the Commons, or the Capital Burgesses of the Borough of *Boston* in *Lincolnshire*, were the Electors of Members to Parliament, *Anno 4. Car. 1.* it was agreed by the Committee of Privileges, that the Election of Burgesses in all Boroughs did of common Right belong to the *Commoners*, and that nothing could take it from them, but a Prescription and constant Usage beyond the Memory of Man.

It appears in many Instances, that the Opinions of Committees, and the Resolves of the House of Commons, concerning the Right of electing of Burgesses to serve in Parliament, and the Persons in whom it is lodged, have been very much perplexed. They have judged the Communities, or *Commonalties* of Cities and Burghs, to be only the ordinary and lower sort of Citizens, Burgesses, or Freemen; and that the Right of Election of Burgesses in all Boroughs did belong to the Commoners, *viz.* the ordinary Burgesses or Freemen, and not to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council.

But the meaning of the words, *Communitates Civitatum & Burgorum*, the Commonalty of Cities  
B 2 and

and Boroughs, has always signified (rightly understood) the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council, where they were to be found ; or the Steward, or Bailiff, and capital Burgeſſes ; or the *Governing Part* of Cities and Towns, by what Perſons ſoever they were governed, or Titles called.

And when in a conteſted Election for the City of *Bath*, in the 13th *Car. II.* the principal Matter inſiſted upon by the Counſel, was, that the Election was made in the Name of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of *Bath* ; which word *Citizens* neceſſarily and of common Right intended *all the Citizens and Freemen* of the City, and not thoſe Citizens only that were Common-Council-Men : It was answered, that Knights of the Shire are ſaid to be choſen by the County, or the whole Community of the County ; and yet theſe words do not extend to all the Inhabitants of the County : for thoſe whoſe Eſtates are in Money or Goods, Leaſeholders, &c. have not any Vote in ſuch Elections. And the Commons, aſſembled in Parliament, are uſually ſtiled the Commonalty of the Realm, tho' they are but a ſelect Number of Perſons elected.

In ſeveral Counties, the Citizens and Burgeſſes were formerly choſen in the County-Courts with the Knights of Shires, on the Day of the Election of ſuch Knights, and jointly returned in one Indenture. There were commonly ſent four or five Citizens or Burgeſſes from the reſpective Cities or Boroughs, whereof the Mayor or Chief Magiſtrate was uſually one, to the County Court ; and there, by the Aſſent of the whole

whole Community of the City or Borough from which they were sent, Citizens and Burgesſes were choſen, with full Power for themſelves, and their ſeveral Communities, to do and conſent to ſuch things, as, by the Common Council of the Kingdom, aſſembled in Parliament, ſhould be ordained and enacted.

How far this Practice, with that of omitting the Returns of poor inconfiderable Boroughs, would be ſtill of uſe to the publick Welfare, I leave to others to judge: But this I will ſay, that if the Freeholders of Counties, and the Electors of ſome of our moſt conſiderable Boroughs, were only to make Elections, we ſhould probably have a great deal leſs Bribery and Corruption than at preſent: We ſhould then have no ſuch thing as Stockjobbing of Elections; and what perhaps is now very common, we ſhould rarely find a Member in the Houſe of Commons ſet a Price upon his Vote.

Having now gone through my *Short Hiſtory*, or Notice of *Boroughs*, and the Rights, Liberties, and Privileges of our Burgeſſes (which I hope has not been an unprofitable Excurſion) I ſhall return to my Subject, and ſet forth the various *Arts, Ways, Humours, and Stratagems* the Candidates of Counties, Cities, and Boroughs have, for ſome Ages paſt, thought neceſſary to gain their ſeveral Elections.

By the ancient Returns of Writs of Election, the Members that are choſen are ſaid to be the *beſt, moſt able, and the diſcreeteſt* Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes. In the Reigns of ſome of  
our



our *Edwards*, a Return of this nature might be justly and honestly made ; which is more than I can say of all the Returns of Members to serve in Parliament in any of our late Reigns.

Instead of our Elections being made out of the *best* of the People, some of the *worst*, for their Understandings, Principles, Religion, and Morals, and every thing but their Wealth, (acquired by the Plunder of those they represent) have, in late times, been chosen as the Guardians of the People. Those Persons who have done us the favour to rid us of our Money, we have prudently made choice of, to ease us of our Liberties : and this, considering the present Posture of Affairs, it is feared may have Continuance to Ages to come ; and that those Foot-steps of Liberty we have yet remaining, may be wholly effac'd and rubb'd out.

For, our publick Servants, who formerly served us for Wages, were no sooner elected, than they became our Masters. They were then, for the most part, above the Acceptance of our Allowances, and nothing would satisfy them but a National Plunder. They had private Ways and Means of being paid their Hire ; and those who sent them to the House, tho' they disliked their Proceedings, had not the Power to help themselves.

But why should we be such *Fools* to elect such *Knaves*, for a share in the Government over a Free-born People ? Why should we let their Artifices prevail, and the Hollowing of the Owl charm us like the Nightingale ? Why should we  
struggle

struggle like *Æsop's* two Travellers for the As, in chusing our Representatives? Why should we fight and skirmish, break Heads, and Loggerhead it, and lose Blood in abundance? And, lastly, Why should we be ruin'd and undone by Elections?

The Answer to all these is plain; 'tis for Money we do them: 'tis for this we plunge into Misfortunes. Our Candidates have Ways to ensnare us; many are their Stratagems, and all are successful, for none can resist the glittering Bribe.

Some of our Candidates so lively imitate their glorious Ancestor *Oliver Cromwell*, that they can whine and weep over their Country's Wrongs, when they have nothing else in view but to ruin that Country they artfully dissemble an Affection for. No mercenary Priest, to procure his Gain, nor common Prostitute, to prevail upon giddy and unthinking Youths, can devise equal Intrigues, and more industriously conceal their Hypocrisy and Diffimulation, than our Modern Competitors for Elections.

Some, who put up for this Trust in the Commonwealth, are bold and bully it, and think to obtain that by Compulsion, which they cannot acquire by any other Means: they threaten Ruin to all Electors, who, by their Employments and Professions, have any Dependance upon them. These sort of Persons are to be starved and undone, if they are so bold and audacious as to act with Honesty, and give their  
Voices

Voices agreeably to the Dictates of their Consciences, and consistent with their own Principles.

Other Candidates lend Money to Electors, on the Security of their Notes, as a sure Pledge for going on the right side, as they call it ; which Notes, perhaps, are deliver'd up, in case the Persons, by whom they are given, betray themselves and their Country for the Consideration ; but if they presume to derogate from the private Condition of such Notes, and vote for other Candidates, the unhappy Debtors are thrown into Prison, from whence they have no Hopes of Release, but by an Act of Grace.

And of late we have heard of other kind of Engagements ; which, tho not the same, are much of the same nature. It seems, in the present Election, some Candidates for Boroughs, who, having try'd all manner of Ways to secure themselves, and doubting Success, have furnish'd their Managers with Money, to lay Wagers with the Wives of the Electors ; Ten Guineas to one, that they should not be elected ; thinking, that to win the Ten Guineas, the Wives might prevail upon their Husbands to vote for them. Some, I am inform'd, expect to succeed by this Device ; which, by a common Construction, is nothing less than Bribery of Ten Guineas a Vote.

Some Spruce Fellows, who have but little Wit in their Heads, tho much Mercury, make it their Business to court and caress the Electors  
Wives,



Wives, and to salute them with Guineas in their Mouths. A golden Kiss from a handsome young 'Squire goes far. And when the Women have been neglected by one Set of Candidates, the Candidates, on the other side, have the surest Prospect of Success, by Applications to them. Feasts, Balls, Musick, and all Entertainments, are to be at their service; no Expence, on this account, must be spared. They love to eat high, and to feed luxuriously, and the Respect due to Quality must be paid them, tho they are but Coblers Wives.

I have heard of some Women, who have been so extravagantly zealous for the Service of such Members they wish'd chosen, that they have made Promises and Resolutions not to permit their Husbands Embraces, till they had obtain'd from them Assurances of their Voting for their favourite Candidates.

During the Time of Elections, Licence is given to all manner of Scandal; if a Candidate has been guilty of a Crime committed with the utmost Secresy, and never heard of before, he is sure to have it published, with Additions, before the Election is over. All the Faults of a Man's Life, and of his Family and Dependents, he must expect to hear of, and to hear it often repeated; which occasion'd a certain Gentleman, on his putting up for Knight of the Shire some time since, to ask his Lady

if she had been free of her Favours; for if she had, he shou'd be sure to be told on't.

Upon these Occasions, the greatest Insults are offer'd to the best sort of Persons, who oppose the Interest of a popular Candidate; nor can a Justice of Peace escape the Fury of the Rabble. An Instance of which, we had in the late Election for *Westminster*, when a certain Justice, Horse and all, were overset, and thrown into a Ditch.

The Time of Elections, is a Time of Mobbing, and Rioting with Impunity: Thousands assemble and meet together, who have no Voices, any further than their loud Huzzas, and their oaken Cudgels, will influence their Brethren of better Circumstances.

This Mobbing shews the Spirit of the People, beyond any thing else. And happy is that Prince, who has the Populace on his Side: As the great Queen *Elizabeth* very justly observed, they are the *strongest Guards*. But it must

must be confess'd, that this Spirit in the People, is very much heighten'd by *Liquor*: Much Drink will carry an Election, generally speaking, sooner than any thing, but *Money*. And I have known, on the very Day of Election, that a Candidate has gain'd his Point, by placing Hogsheads of Wine in a Market-place, and tapping them at both Ends, with Liberty for Friends and Enemies, without Distinction, to drink their Fill; which has had such an Effect on the latter, that they have forgot all former Engagements, and given their Voices for the Gentleman whose Barrels were running at both Ends.

The other Artifices used in Elections are many and various; there are Variety of Stratagems, besides that of the Bottle, tho Money has the Preheminence, and the heaviest Portmanteau seldom fails to make the Election; it qualifies the Candidate beyond all Objection, and makes him appear a Patriot to the People.

Many are the Candidates sent into the Country, who make it their political



tical Business to rail against all Courts, and all kind of Governments, but such as the People seem to be inclin'd to: They'll be of any Religion, of any Party, and for any Administration, the Electors shall propose, during the time their Elections are soliciting: But what are they afterwards? Are they of any Religion, for any Party, or any Ruling Power, but what is opposite to the Interest of those they represent?

This, I believe, will be found too true to admit of Contradiction; tho, I think, as to Party, the Time is now come that Parties are dropt. The late *Whigs* have been guilty of such Practices, that they are ashamed of the Name, and are by nothing so much distinguish'd as their Crimes; and the *Tories*, having suffer'd by their Folly, are no longer desirous of any such Distinction. The present Parties are for *Court* and *Country*; — I don't say Freedom and Slavery, tho some Persons have given a Turn to Designs on foot having a Tendency that way.

Which

Which of these Interests the People in general will be willing to embrace, is easy to determine, they are undoubtedly for the latter, and I cannot by any means blame them: and yet, at the same time, I am as great an Advocate for the Court, as I think is consistent with the Love of my Country.

We have an Instance at this time of dividing Interests, and even joining opposite Parties to keep out Persons, in the Interest of their Country, from any share in the Service of it. I could mention a very honest Gentleman, and a worthy Patriot, who has met with Treatment of this kind, for no other Crime than that of endeavouring to bring to Justice Robbers of the Publick.

Amongst the many Methods, frequently used in making Elections, there are none so openly against our Constitution, and the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, as the Interest that is made in all Elections by the Peers of the Realm. We have had  
few

few Elections, without a very great Number of Candidates elected by the Interposition of the Nobility, who have large Possessions to influence a Choice, and some of them have singly made ten or twenty Members.

In our former Elections of Knights of the Shire, I am well informed, it has been usual for Candidates to grant Estates to Persons of the meanest Circumstances, and the worst of Principles, as a Qualification to vote for their Election; and to have either a latent Deed or a Bond to resign, when the Election is over, on Payment of the Sums agreed for their Votes.

In Boroughs, to multiply Electors, great Numbers of Freemen are oftentimes made, to serve the purpose of procuring a Majority for a Candidate, who aims at nothing but to sell his Country: And thus are the Freemen of this Kingdom made subservient to Slavery amongst us; they are made free To-day, to be Slaves To-morrow, and all for a less Purchase than *Judas's* Hire.



A certain Great Lady has been active on this Account, in a certain Borough ; but I hope to see her disappointed, and that our Freemen, in the Election now on foot, will shew themselves Such, and convince the World, that Freedom, on these Terms, is not always the Price of Slavery.

Our Military Gentlemen promise to excuse the Inhabitants of Boroughs from the quartering of Soldiers, to push their Interests in Borough-Elections. And, on the other hand, when they find their Interest upon its Decline, they threaten the People with Drums and Fire-Arms ; and tell them, there shall not be a House in a City or Borough without its Soldier. I am told a Great General has lately thus threatened a Borough in his Jurisdiction.

The cunning Lawyers, who set up for Candidates, promise to promote the best of Laws for the Welfare of Society, and to be the Great Guardians of the Liberty of the People ; but, instead of it, 'tis by their means that  
the

the best designed Laws have been oftentimes evaded, and rendered useless.

Our Merchants, who are Candidates, make very large Promises what they will do for Trade; but this Trade, when we come to find it out, is a Trade in a Certain House, too profitable for those that are out of it to know or understand. And some of them propose advantageous Schemes for the very same purpose: But these, I hope, by our late Misfortunes, are not at this time to be esteemed Merit in the Persons proposing them.

From the Sons of our Nobility I have already hinted what we may expect; they ought to be excluded the *British* House of Commons, for the Reasons I have given in my Observations on the Influence of the Peerage; they'll always appear in the Interest of the Court, and therefore are prudently to be avoided at any Juncture that that Interest shall become too formidable.

All

All Pensioners to a Court are the last Men to be chosen ; though, for these, great Struggle has been always made. They talk at first with the Spirit (not Honesty) of Patriots, and afterwards, on a little private Discipline, are for ever silent ; they soon lose the Gift of Speech, and in the House, are only conspicuous Statues.

One would imagine they had been dumb from their Nativity, like the famous Conjuror *Campbell* ; though they have a much more profitable Employment in Life.

The last thing I have to mention, is the Use that has been formerly made of the Exchequer in our Elections, which exceeds all other Practices, and was very justly condemned in the Debates on rejecting the late Bill for Freedom of Elections. 'Tis extremely hard, that Money given by the Subject for Publick Uses, and for their greater Security, should be employed against them in the Management of Elections ; and that what

D

was



was chearfully advanc'd by the Country to serve a Government, should be used by that Government to destroy that Country. But this, I hope, will never happen again to the People of *Great Britain*.

I shall conclude this short Account of the Methods used by Candidates, with a remarkable Paragraph I have lately seen in the publick Prints. ' We hear that a certain Person of Quality, who sets up for a certain Borough, not many Miles from *London*, where the Number of Electors are but thirteen, has very prudently secured eight of them at his House in *Hannover Square*, where they have been for many Days entertained in the most sumptuous manner; shewn all the Rarities and Diversions of the Town; and are to be clothed, besides their new Breeches handsell'd, before the Election.'

This,

This, whether Real or Fictitious,  
needs no Comment: The Reader can  
easily judge of its Meaning, and there-  
fore I make no Application.



*An E X T R A C T from the Reports of the Committee of Secrecy, relating to the fictitious Stock; and a List of those Members of both Houses who had the said Stock held for them, in order to facilitate the passing the late South-Sea Bill.*

**A**S to the Lords of Parliament, and Members of the House of Commons, named in the Accompt of Stock sold, which Accompt of Stock amounts in the whole to 124,000 *l.* the Particulars of which follow :

Mr. *Robert Surman* being examined, and shewed the said Accompts of Stock sold, says, That when he was (by Mr. *Knight's* Direction) preparing the said Accompt of Stock sold to be laid before the House, Mr. *Knight* read those Sums to him out of the Green Book ; wherein this Examinant, at the same time, saw the Lord *Chetwynd's* Name, at the Head of an Accompt therein kept between his Lordship and Mr. *Knight* ; and the Examinant verily believes, that his Lordship's Name and the said Sums, and all the other Names and Sums which were read out of the said Green Book, are real, and that such Persons had such Stock actually held for them ; and that those Sums were really held by Mr. *Knight* for Lord *Chetwynd's* Benefit, who had the power over so much Stock, and had a Right at any time to demand the Difference, in case of a Rise ; and the Examinant never heard that his Lordship either paid any Money, or gave Security for paying for the said Stock. And touching the following Sums, he says the same he said concerning the Stock charged to be sold to the Lord *Chetwynd*. Stock



		Stock.	Price per Ct.	Money
		l.	l.	l.
Feb. 5.	Lieut. Gen. Pepper —	4000	180	7200
	Tho Wynn, Esq; —	2000	180	3600
	Sir Rob. Chaplain —	5000	174½	8725
	Ld. Gower per Edw. Gibbon	2000	180	3600
	Ld Chetwynd —	3000	179	5370
17	Ditto —	2000	182	3640
March 1	John Roberts —	1000	178	1780
	Ld Lansdown per Gibbon —	5000	180	9000
	Ditto —	5000	176½	8825
	Edward Rolt Esq; —	5000	174½	8712 10
11	Samuel Tuffnel Esq; —	5000	182	9100
17	John Burridge —	2000	200	4000
21	Coll. James Scot —	1000	250	2500
22	Wm. Chetwynd Esq; —	3000	275	8250
	Sir Copp. Bampffield per } Rob. Chester — }	1000	275	2750
	John Bampffield per Ditto	1000	275	2750
	Sir John Bland per Ditto	1000	275	2750
	Sir Tho. Seabright per Ditto	1000	275	2750
	Henry Dracks per Ditto. —	1000	260	2600
	Wm. Chetwynd Esq; —	4000	280	11200
	Coll. Graham —	2000	280	5600
23	Sir Wm. Gordon —	4000	276	11040
	Tho. Wynn Esq; —	2000	275	5500
March 23	Wm. Forrester —	1000	272	2720
28	Coll. Monroe —	6000	275	16500
	Pat. Haldane Esq; —	2000	285	5700
	Edward Rolt Esq; —	8000	285	22800
March 25	Sir Wm. Gordon —	3000	300	9000
	Earl Rothes —	2000	300	6000
	Earl of Essex —	2000	305	6100
	Ld Haddington —	2000	308	6160
	Marq. Winchester —	2000	310	6200
	Jos. Banks —	1000	310	3100
	Wm. Chetwynd Esq; —	3000	310	9300
	Coll. Montgomery —	2000	315	6300
	Tho. Poultney Esq; —	2000	315	6300
	Sir Mount Blundell —	2000	318	6360
	Sir Wilfred Lawson —	1000	320	3200
	Ch. Longueville per Rob. Chester	1000	325	3250
	Wm. Yonge Esq; —	3000	330	9900
	Sir Wm. Carew per Rob. Chester	1000	300	3000

That

That in Discourse with Mr. *Knight*, since this Enquiry began, Mr. *Knight* has often expressed a great deal of Uneasiness on account of Stock sold and bought for the Company, saying, He had in these Affairs obliged several Persons, whom he did not care to name.

And your Committee examined, in the most solemn manner, *William Compere*, one of the Persons mentioned in the Accompt of the said 574,500 *l.* Stock; and he declares, he did not buy the Quantity of Stock, in the said Accompt charged to be sold to him, neither of the *South-Sea Company*, Mr. *Knight*, Mr. *Surman*, or any other Person concerned for the Company, to his knowledge: nor had he any such Stock held or taken in for him by any of the Persons aforesaid.

And the several other Brokers and Persons, who are also inserted in the said Accompt as Buyers of other Parts of the said Stock, having been examined by your Committee, have, in the like manner, denied their buying such Stock, or having the same taken in or held for them; and have declared, that their Names are in the said Accompt made use of without their Knowledge or Consent; and your Committee observe, that the several Sums amount to 339,500 *l.* *South-Sea Stock*.

And from hence it is evident, that the Names of the said Persons have been fictitiously made use of, in order to conceal the Persons for whose Benefit such Stock was really disposed of.

